

A

TRUE AND IMPARTIAL

Relation of the BATTLE

BETWIXT,

HIS MAJESTIES

ARMY and that of the REBELLS,

neare Newbury in Berk-shire,

Sept. 20. 1643.



WITH

The severall Actions of the KINGS

Army since His MAJESTIES remo-

ving it from before Gloucester.

Sent in a Letter from the Army

to a Noble LORD.

Printed, 1643.

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My Lord,



Have omitted all this last Week to give your Lordship an accompt of the condition of His Majesties affaires here; every day (till these three last) having produced little in effect, but much in expectation. But now that the long look for *Crisis* of a Battail is over, I have thought it fit to informe your Lordship, not only of the successe and circumstances of that, but also of the steps and progresse to it, being doubly obliged so to doe, in relation to His Majesties service, as well as in what I owe to your Lordships satisfaction, both which I find in as much danger of suffering by some of our own parties, charging the conduct of His Majesties designs with rashnesse and imprudence, as in the Rebels perverting the truth of the successe of His Armies, by their usuall arts of falsity by which they have hitherto still appeared able to make better use of Defeates, then we of Victories.

Your Lordship may be pleased to understand, that the Earle of *Essex* having descended with his Army into the Vale of *Gloucester*, before the King could well draw His from the Siege up to the hilles to fight with him, it was not thought fit to follow him into the inclosed Country, where the King should loose the great advantage he had above him in strength of horse, but rather to make choice of such a place to incamp his Army as might be aptest for these three ends: to accommodate his Quarters; to strengthen him in Provisions; and equally to intercept

his sight in a faire Country; whether he should take it by the way of *Worcester* towards *Warwick*, or by the way of *Cyrene* towards *Reading*, and to these purposes, the Towne of *Winchcombe* and *Sudely* Castle were made choyce of as the most appropriate. But after two daies lodging there, (the *Queenes* Regiment having in their coming to that Quarter defeated one of the Earles best Regiments of Horse of *Dutchmen*, commanded by one *Blaire*) upon intelligence that the Earle was advanced as farre as *Tenxbury* and *Upton* bridge, (whereby it was made probable unto us, that he intended *Warwick* way) the King removed his Army to *Evesham*; from whence (having beaten up a Quarter of theirs) we were quickly hurried by the newes that *Essex* had faced about, and had in the night, with great silence, secrecy, and strange diligence, almost gained *Cirencester*, and surprized two new raised Regiments of ours there, before we could get any certain notice of his motions: having left (as it seems) most of his great Ordnance and baggage behind him, and amusing us with a shew of Forces still in *Tenxbury* and *Upton*, which were (as I conceive) those now remaining in Garrison at *Glocester*. Vpon certainty of his remove on the Thursday, our whole Army on the Saturday morning marcht after him, our Horse with such diligence, that on the Sunday night, they Quartered within six miles of him, he at *Sunningdon*, we about *Farringdon*. Vpon the Munday morning Colonell *Urrey*, with a partee of a Thousand commanded men, was sent to follow them in the Reare from their Quarters, whilst Prince *Rupert* with the body of the Cavalry drew over the directest way to meet him, and it was our good luck to crosse his Army just as our party had overtaken it upon the open Downe, two miles on the Northwest side of *Aubourne*, the Rebels discrying us, drew up in Battalia, leaving only a body of some two hundred Horse upon a hill somewhat distant from the grosse of their Army, which we found means so to steale upon with *Urries* party, as to charge and rout them, and taking two Coronets and killing Forty or Fifty men, without any losse on our part, we beat them into their Foot & Cannon, upon which occasion we discovered

covered such evident symptoms of feare and distraction in their whole Army, as that the Prince was well might tempted from his temper, and was once resolved to have charged (with 3000 horse alone,) their whole Army, consisting of 2000 horse and 3000 Foot at least, and store of Cannon: But newes arriving at the instant that our Foot was, beyond expectation, advanced within 6 or 7 miles of us, it imposed upon his Highnesse prudence this caution, not to adventure upon halfe our strength that rest, which the next day he might be sure to fight for with double power: upon which consideration he made a stand, resolving that night only to attend them and hinder their March. We had not stood long when we discovered that the Enemy prepared for a retreat, and by degrees drew away there baggage first, then their Foot leaving their horse at a good distance from them. The Prince his Design hereupon was to have charged them, when halfe their Forces should have beene drawne off the field into those Lanes, whereinto their baggage was already advanced, but their motions being so very slow, and the night drawing on, upon second thoughts his Highnesse judg'd it the best course to trye, if (by a small partee) he could engage their horse, which was then grown to be at a good distance from their Foot: this Partee he committed to the care of *Urrey*, with two Regiments only neare at hand to second him, keeping the Body of his Horse at such a distance, as might encourage the Enemy to venture on that sever'd part, which they did, with a little too much encouragement, for (to say the truth) the Regiments that should have seconded *Urrey*, not doing their parts so well as they ought, forced this Partee also to make somewhat a disorderly retreat, and the Prince to send hasty succours to them, which the *Queenes Regiment* (Commanded by my Lord *Jermyn*) was ordered to doe, which his Lordship performed with much gallantry, being received very readily, by a strong body of the Enemies horse, and with a composednesse in the Officer that commanded them very remarkable. For his Lordship advancing before his Regiment, with the *Marquesse de la Vieuville* on the one hand, & the *Ed Digby* on the other (the Enemies Volley of Carabines given them

them smartly at lesse then 10. yards) being past, the Cōmander somewhat forwarder then the rest, was plainly seene to pryce into their countenances, and removing his leavell from one to another to ditcharge his Pistoll as it were by election at the L^d Digbyes head, but without any more hurt, (saving only the burning of his face) than he himselfe received by my L^d Jermyns sword, who (upon the Lord Digbyes Pistoll missing fire) ran him with it in to the back, but he was as much beholding to his Armes there, as the Lord Digby to his head-peece. Immediately upon this shooke, the Queenes Regiment was so charged in the reare by a fresh body of theirs, that the greatest part of it, shifting for themselves, the Lord Jermyn, accompanied with the French Marquesse, and the Officers only of his Regiment, thought it as safe a way as well as the most honourable, to venture forwards through their whole Army, rather then to Charge back through those that had inviron'd him, and so with admirable successe (the unhappy losse of that gallant Marquesse excepted) he brought 4 Colours & all his Officers off safe, having made their way round, through the grosse of the Enemies Foot. The Lord Digby being konn'd, and for the present blinded with his shot, was fortunately rescued out of the middle of a Regiment of the Enemies by a brave Charge, which Prince Rupert in Person made upon them with his owne Troop, wherein his Highnesse Horse was shot in the head under him, but yet, by Gods blessing, brought him off; and so the Enemies horse being beaten quite up to their Foot and Cannon, the night coming upon us, gave a period to that action. That night we quarter'd in the Field, some 2 miles distant from the Enemy, who by the next morning was stolen away as farre as *Hungerford*: whereupon, the Prince conjecturing rightly the course they would hold; drew his Horse the directest way towards *Newbury*, assigning the Foot also their Rendezvous there that night, where, luckily, they met in the Evening, at the same instant that the Earle of *Essex* his Army appeared within a mile of the Towne with little thought (as I conceive) of finding his intended quarter so prepossest: upon sight of our Army they retreated into certaine hedges and fastnesses,

nesses, a mile & halfe distant from *Newbury* westward. The Rebels thus happily overtaken in their flight, consultation was held of the way to prevent their farther evading us; & it was resolved on for the best, to draw all the Kings Army that night into a large field on the other side of *Newbury*, adjoyning to those closes where the Enemy had made this halt; to the end that we might be in readinesse to presse upon the first motions of theirs. The night was past in much uncertainty, but without opinion on our part, that they were marcht away. The next morning being Wednesday the 20. of *Sept.* by break of day, (in stead of the flight which upon all their former proceedings we had reason to expect) we discovered them settled in the most advantageous way imaginable of receiving us, whether invited to it by the extraordinary advantages of the place, or engaged to it by the despaire of escaping us by a Retreat, I know not, but there we found them, their Foot, their Horse, & their Cannon planted with much skill; not only for molesting us and preserving themselves, but even for temptation to us to assaile them upon those disadvantages. For having lodged their Baggage and Principall Reserve both of Horse and Foot upon a hill side under a Wood neer *Hampsted*, fenced by Hedges and Ditches inaccessible, but by such and such passes, and having disposed another principall part of their strength betwixt that and a place called *Enbourne*, in strong hedges, and houses, with apt Batteries on both sides, for bravado sake, or to invite us, they had drawn out into Battalia into a little Heath on the South side of *Enbourne* three bodies of foot, both lined and flanked with strong bodies of Horse, and under favour of Cannon, so as that upon all occasions they might conveniently power out thicher from their holds what new strength they pleased, or, if beaten, might have a safe retreat into the adjoyning fastnesses, which nature and they had both so well secured; they being so advantageously placed for fight, and so disadvantageously for subsistence, we having *Newbury* at our backs to susteineus, and so many more Horse then they to cut off provisions. It may well occurre to your Lordship, to question why since

(since it doth to so many more to censure that) we did not
 indeavour to combat them so by their necessities as to oblige
 them for want of sustenance to retreat over some more
 equall Country, rather then to assaile them upon such
 dangerous oddes of scituation. The answer to this objection
 by way of excuse, that we were in some sort to lead on, and
 ingaged by the tempting prospect of that little Battalia I men-
 tioned upon the Heath, and by way of justification I am to tell
 you, that there was within the Enemies dominion a round hill
 not suspected nor observed by us the night before, from
 whence a battery would command all the plain before *New-
 bury*, where the Kings Army stood, insomuch that unless
 we possesst our selves of that hill, there was no holding of that
 Field, but the King must have retreated with his Army thence,
 the dishonour of which, I beleve you will easily consent
 ought to outweigh the hazard of attempting them, and (to say
 the truth) even without their having that hill, the Kings Per-
 son was exposed all day to much more hazard of the Cannon
 then was fitting, the Rebels imploying it very freely where
 ever by any signes they could discover his presence. This hill
 and that heath I mention'd, were the two eminent scenes of
 all that dayes action, from 7 a clock in the morning till 7 at
 night, except only one attempt made by them from their grand
 Reserve upon a passe on our right hand neare the River possesst
 by the Kings Life guards, in which they were repulst. The
 issue of the Battaille on the heath (first begunne and quickly en-
 ded) was a totall routing of their horse, the possessing off five
 peeces of Cannon there, though able to bring off but one of
 them, the forcing the Foot to retreat into their strength, though
 unbroken, for (give them their due) they shewed themselves
 like good men, and lastly the gaining and holding the
 place.

This action was done meerly by our Horse, for (to say truth)
 our Foot having found a hillocke in the heath that sheltered
 them from the Enemies Cannon, would not be drawne a foot
 from thence. The Generall and Prince *Rupert*s personall pre-
 sence

fence and conduct, contributed much to this good success, as also the Lieutenant generall *Willmots*. Chief Officers of horse, that bore a principall part in the action it selfe, were my Lord of *Carnarvon*, Colonell *Gerard*, Sir *Charles Lucas*, the Earle of *Northampton*, the Lord *Chandos*, and *Daniell Oneale*. To name them all that did eminently there, were to give you a Catalogue of all our Gentlemen of quality there present: for there is scarcely any that did not behave himselfe remarkably. Persons of note killd there, were, the Earle of *Carnarvon*, the Earle of *Sunderland*, Colonell *Morgan*, Lieutenant Colonell *Peikding*, and some more Volunteeres, whose names I cannot collect, amongst the rest, Sir *George Strodes* eldest Sonne, a Valiant and an ingenious young man; Persons of note hurt, of prime Officers, the Lord *Andover*, S^r *Charles Lucas*, Colonell *Charles Gerard*, and Colonell *Ivers*. Of lower Officers, abundance, but none that I heare either of them or these dangerously. Of Volunteeres, the Earle of *Peterborough*, and M^r *John Russell*, M^r *Edward Sackville*, M^r *Henry Howard*, *George Porter*, with many more.

The action of the hill was carried with as much bravery both by our Horse and Foot as on the Heath by the Horse alone, the Foot Comanded by Sir *Nicholas Byron*, the Horse by Sir *John Byron*, who after fixe houres (the hottest dispute that hath beene seene) gain'd it from my Lord of *Essex* his owne guards that had posselt it; enjoyed it quietly many houres, and in the end (the Enemy setting up his rest to regain it, after as hot a fight as at their taking it) repulsd him, and kept it still.

Officers of note hurt there, were Colonell *Darcy*, *George Lisle*, and *Ned Villiers*; and the Lord Viscount *Falkland* (volunteering it with too much bravery) unfortunately killed; I may have omitted many persons as eminent in their actions that day, as some of these I have named, but it being so endlesse a task to nominate all, I have only particularized such as I conceive to be of your Lordships acquaintance.

Your Lordship doth not expect that I should tell you of no-

ble men killed on the othe side, nor much of Gentry, but of such things as they call Officers, their Prisoners assure us concurringly, that the most and principall of them are slaine. The night comming upon us soon after the Enemies finall repulse from that hill, the King drew all his Army up to the top of the heath, keeping possession both of that, and of the hill till towards night; at which time, His Horse and Foot, being extremely tyred, and beeing probably informed that the Enemy had retreated with their carriages, and a principall part of their Army, it was thought fit to draw his Horse into Quarters on the other side of the River, and His foot into the Towne, principally to refresh them, and to inable them for the next daies pursuit, but in part (for I will conceale nothing from your Lordship) to make a Bridge to a flying Enemy, least indeed too great a despaire of retreat, might have made them opiniate a second fight in that disadvantageous place, where having not (to tell you the truth) Powder enough left for halfe such another day, having spent foure score barrells in it, threescore more then had served the turne at *Edge-hill*, nor could we be assured that the supply from *Oxford* of 100. Barrells more could come to us till the next day at noon.

Thus my Lord have I given your Lordship as true an account as I can, of Gods blessing upon the justice of His Majesties Armies that day, which (considering the disadvantages we fought upon) may well be counted in it selfe a happy successe, but in the effects it hath since had in our pursuit of my Lord of *Essex*, our defeating, in that pursuit, his two best remaining Regiments of Horse, our dissipating in so great a measure his Army, and sending the Rebels back with so much terror, to their nest (*London*), may well be reputed a great victory; and yet I am confident that our having gained the Field, Colours, Cannon, store of Prisoners, from them, beaten them from all places, that we undertook, repulsed them from all that they attempted, our having execution on them in their flight, and all this with the losse of halfe their numbers, all the conquest ensignes of a battaile gained; will not have kindled lighter bonfires

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fires with us in joy and thanksgiving, then with the remaining Rebels in hopes yet farther to abuse the people, by passing still upon them deliverances for Victories.

From NEWBURY this

22. of Sept. 1643.

Your Lordships

most humble Servants
